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Royal Geographical Society.

1843.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

THE Council have to report that, since the last Anniversary Meeting, 16 new Members have been elected. The vacancies in the same period amount to 14, of which, 6 by death and 8 by resignation.

The Society now consists of 655 Members, exclusive of 60 foreign Honorary and Corresponding Members. The Council have to deplore the loss of the Vice-Patron of the Society, H. R. Highness the Duke of Sussex, who, since the commencement of the Society, had been pleased to honour us with his name and patronage. The Council have also to express their regret for the death of one of their distinguished foreign Honorary Members, the Count Alexander L. J. Laborde, Member of the French Institute.

Finances.—The Society will observe, by the accompanying balance-sheet, that the expenditure of the last year has been restricted to the lowest amount consistently with the indispensable requirements of its operations; notwithstanding which it was found at the end of the financial year, in December, 1842, that there were outstanding claims to the amount of 578*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, of which sum the greater part is strictly chargeable to 1841, the Journal of that year not appearing till 1842. Indeed the expenditure of 1842 was 76*l.* 6*s.* below the estimate, which was itself exceedingly low as compared with the estimates of former years. One principal reason of this apparent anomaly is to be found in the dilatoriness of Members in paying their subscriptions, and in the amount of arrears due by Members abroad: the whole arrears amounting, on the 1st of January last, to 500*l.* Had this sum been received, the Council would not have been under the necessity of again trenching on the vested funds of the Society,

which they have done by the sale of 580*l.*, the amount of the deficit. But while the Council hope that a great portion of the arrears will eventually be paid, they have thought that the character of the Society required that the just demands upon the funds of the Society should be settled forthwith; it being most desirable indeed, on every account, that the Society's financial affairs be brought to such a state that the expenses of each year be paid, if possible, by the receipts of that year; so that at the close of each year, the Society, even if less rich in funds, may have the satisfaction of being without debt. After the present year, it is hoped that such will be the case. We say after the present year, because, in order to get up our lee-way as respects the publication of the Journal, there will be three numbers in the present year, and subsequently but two.

Arrears.—With regard to the arrears which, as above stated, were on the 1st of January 500*l.*, there has been paid in since 80*l.*

Money Grants.—No money grants have been made by the Council since that of 100*l.*, mentioned in the report of last year as made to Dr. Beke. It has been paid within the last ten days in pursuance of the wish communicated to the Secretary by that enterprising and successful traveller.

Royal Donation.—Of the two gold medals, forming the donation of Her Most Gracious Majesty, that called the Patron's Medal has been awarded to Captain Symonds, of the Royal Engineers, for his triangulation over a great portion of Palestine, and for his determination of the difference between the level of the Mediterranean and that of the Dead Sea; and that called the Founder's Medal to Mr. Eyre, for his enterprising and extensive explorations in Australia, under circumstances of peculiar difficulty.

Journal.—We have already alluded to the Journal.—It is well known to the Society that we have been obliged, from financial considerations, to revert to the practice of issuing but two parts annually. The delay, however, which occurred in the publication of the 10th Volume has rendered it expedient to publish three

Parts in the present year—namely, the 2nd Part of Volume 12, which should have appeared in 1842, and the two Parts of Volume 13; when the desired regularity will be re-established. It is hardly necessary to bring again before the notice of the Society, that each Member receives back, in the shape of the Journal, fully one-half of his annual contribution.

Your Secretary has for some time been engaged in the very laborious occupation of preparing a detailed index of the contents of the first ten volumes of the Journal, which he has nearly terminated. The want of such an index has long been felt; but as our funds do not admit of our incurring the expense of printing this index, which will form a volume of itself, and delivering it gratuitously to the Members, it is proposed that such Members as are desirous of having it at cost price give in their names, when, if the number be sufficient to cover the expense, it will be forthwith sent to the press; and with this view a Prospectus will be prepared, under the superintendence of the Council, for the information of the Society.

Library.—The accessions to the library since the last year consist of 417 volumes, and 206 maps and charts; of these last, thirty have been presented to us by the Hydrographic department of the Admiralty.

Our library and collection of maps are now of very considerable extent and value; but the Council regrets exceedingly that many of those valuable documents are likely to be injured for want of the means of keeping them in that state which shall ensure their preservation. Many of the books require to be bound, the more particularly as, being lent out to numbers, they soon become deteriorated, if left in boards. Many of our maps and charts require mounting, others require portfolios; but, in the present state of the Society's finances, the Council, being of course very unwilling to trench upon the funds of the Society beyond what is imperative, cannot at present warrant a sufficient outlay for that purpose.

BALANCE-SHEET FOR 1842.

Dr.

	£.	s.	d.
Balance, January 1st, 1842, in the Banker's hands	209	6	11
Balance of Petty Cash, in the Secretary's hands	32	0	6
Entrance of 18 Members, at 3*l.*	54	0	0
Composition of 6 Members, at 17*l.*	102	0	0
Subscription of 257 Members, at 2*l.*	514	2	0
Arrears paid up	48	0	0
Dividends on 3150*l.* Stock, 3½ per Cent. Reduced	108	12	11
Royal Premium	52	10	0
Journals sold	71	11	6
Mr. Alexander's Donation	50	0	0
	£1,242	3	10

Cr.

	£.	s.	d.
House Rent and Fixtures	263	13	0
Salaries of Secretary, Editor, and Librarian	425	0	0
Collector	21	0	0
Messenger's Wages	26	0	0
Fire and Lights	19	0	4½
Stationery	19	0	7
Freight, Duty, Carriage of Parcels, Postages, &c.	44	11	11½
Evening Meetings	16	10	3
Insurance and Advertisements	5	5	0
Instruments for Travellers	5	15	0
Furniture, Repairs, and Fittings, and Hire of Chairs for Evening Meetings	22	7	11
Journal for 1841 (Printing 141*l.* 18*s.*, Illustrations 89*l.* 16*s.*, Translations 22*l.*)	253	14	0
Miscellaneous Printing	9	19	0
Books, Maps, and Bindings	32	5	1
Royal Premium	46	10	0
Sundries, as Christmas-boxes, &c.	1	0	6
Balance in the Banker's hands	30	11	2
	£1,242	3	10

The above Accounts have been compared by us with the corresponding vouchers, and found to be correct.

JAMES MEEK,
WM. CHATTERTON, } *Auditors.*

JOHN BIDDULPH, *Treasurer.*

ESTIMATE FOR 1843.

Dr.

	£.	s.	d.
Balance in the Banker's hand (1st January, 1843)	30	11	2
Probable Amount of Subscriptions, viz.:—			
Entrance of 35 Members at 3*l.*	105	0	0
Composition of 20 Members at 17*l.*	340	0	0
Subscriptions of 300 Members at 2*l.*	600	0	0
Arrears likely to be recovered	100	0	0
Dividends on 3150*l.* ($3\frac{1}{2}$ per Cents. Reduced)	110	5	0
Royal Premium	52	10	0
Journals sold	150	0	0
	£1,488	6	2

Cr.

	£.	s.	d.
Rent and Fixtures	263	13	0
Salaries and wages	447	0	0
Office Expenses, including Firing, Lights, Meetings, Stationery, Postages, Carriage of Parcels, Freights, &c.	100	0	0
Insurance and Advertisements	5	5	0
Furniture and Fittings	10	0	0
Journal	450	0	0
Miscellaneous Printing	5	0	0
Books, Bindings, &c.	20	0	0
Royal Premium	46	0	0
Grant to Dr. Beke	100	0	0
Sundries	10	0	0
	£1,456	18	0

J. R. JACKSON,
Secretary.